

Application No. 10/601,053

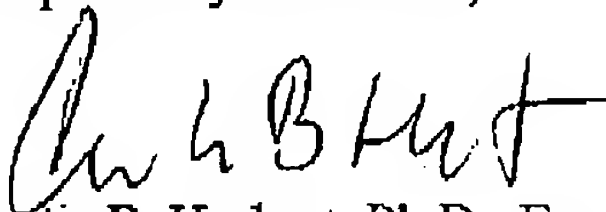
REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is cancelled, and claims 2-8 are amended. The Abstract has been amended for clarity. Claims 5-8 were previously indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 5 was rewritten to substantially include the limitations of its parent claim; in light of numerous changes made for clarity, discussed below, detailed review of amended claim 5 is requested. In light of these amendments, withdrawal of all of the 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b), 103(a) rejections is requested. All of the claims were amended for clarity so as to conform to U.S. practice and to better define the inventions; accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections is requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Curtis B. Herbert, Ph.D., Esq.
Registration No. 45,443

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuent, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-3008